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Google Earth

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Google Earth

Need to distract yourself for a bit? Try Google Earth. This free program, which you can download from <http://earth.google.com/>, is incredibly fun. The site uses satellite imagery and maps creating a fascinating look at our planet and its most intriguing features: mountains, lakes, and of course, fabulous buildings like Cologne Cathedral or the pyramids at Giza. You can even climb Mt. Everest or explore the floor of the Grand Canyon with ease! What makes this so intriguing is the three-dimensional quality of the images and their surprising detail. You'll find not only large structures, but big things on the move, such as a herd of elephants, a dirigible, and more.



Google Earth

If you wish, you can turn on a labeling feature which names rivers, streets, monuments, and even hotels. At the site of some of the more picturesque monuments, there is often a link to a National Geographic story about the site. One caveat: people can submit their own labeling, so one ends up with multiple titles in popular spots or just strange designations that you would never find in a strictly-professional map. For instance, see if you can spot the “Awful Tourist Hotel” neatly labeled near the pyramids in Egypt. A fun site that focuses on the interesting thing you can see on Google, Earth is The World According to Google <http://maps.pomocnik.com/>

So, look up your favorite medieval site and see what you can find!



Venice from Google Earth

P.S. For those who need more than planet earth, check out <http://www.google.com/mars/> and <http://moon.google.com/>.





Pyramids





Notre Dame, Paris



Elephant herds in Republic of Chad, Africa